

Thoughts on State of the Union 2012

Written by Mike Honda

Tuesday, 24 January 2012 22:01

In his State of the Union address tonight, President Obama underscored that the fight for the great American majority – the 99 percent – is the defining issue of our time. As a result, this year in Congress cannot lead to grandstanding and gridlock. The work ahead of us is far too important. This year must be defined by courageous acts of bipartisanship that deliver results for the American people.

I applaud President Obama's initiatives to "insource" jobs and expand American manufacturing. Any serious proposal from any corner of Congress to achieve these goals should be given serious consideration at this critical time for the economy. My pending proposal in Congress will guarantee that entrepreneurs build, hire and thrive right here at home. I have already introduced legislation to energize American manufacturing. This legislation ensures that the next generation of world-changing technologies – the iPad's and LCD screens of the near future – are stamped MADE IN THE USA.

I applaud President Obama's mission to rally the nation around the values that made the middle class the envy of the world: fairness and responsibility. Re-igniting the American Dream will take innovative policy approaches that win the future for the great American majority – the 99 percent.

This mission begins by preserving a payroll tax cut for American workers and extending unemployment insurance for 2 million Americans for the remainder of the year. Congress must lead on these issues right now. Congress must also deliver a budget that promotes the values of the American people and addresses the fundamental needs of the economy.

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Building on my authorship of the Congressional Progressive Caucus's Budget in 2011, I look forward to once again leading this effort in 2012. The CPC's updated fiscal plan is written for working families. We recognize that middle-class folks are America's true job creators. They drive demand that spurs businesses to hire workers. The CPC's fiscal plan puts the 99 percent back on a path of financial security.

For two-hundred thirty six years, the story of America has been written by hardworking, imaginative men and women who roll up their sleeves, get to work, solve problems and propel our nation forward. The work of Congress in 2012 must embody the get-it-done story of America.

That's what the American people want. That's what the American people deserve.